

**AMENDMENTS, INCLUDING STATUS OF ALL CLAIMS**

**In the Claims:**

Please replace pending Claim 16 with amended Claim 16, as follows:

1. (Original) A system for providing payroll services via a masked third-party processor, comprising the steps of:

a) enabling communication of customer payroll data from the customer to the payroll provider via a first means of data transmission;

b) transmitting the customer payroll data from the payroll provider to a third-party payroll processor via a second means of data transmission;

c) processing the customer payroll data by the third-party processor;

d) transmitting the processed payroll information from the third-party processor to the payroll provider; and

e) enabling communication of the processed payroll information from the payroll provider to the customer via a third means of data transmission,

wherein the third-party processor and the customer communicate with and are associated through the payroll provider.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein first means of data transmission is a facsimile data transmission.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said first means of data transmission is a digital voice data transmission.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said first means of data transmission is electronic file transmission via a global networking system.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said second means of data transmission is electronic file transmission via a global networking system.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said third means of data transmission is facsimile data transmission.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said customer payroll data is transferred to a common server and wherein the third-party processor retrieves said customer payroll data from said server.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein said customer payroll data retrieved from a common directory of said server is recognized and verified via third-party applications.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein said recognized and verified customer payroll data is retransmitted to a data directory of said server.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the third party payroll processor accesses said data directory and utilizes said data to yield said processed payroll information.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said processed payroll information is transmitted to an account directory of said server.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 11, wherein said account directory of said server comprises checks file, reports file and transactions file.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 11, wherein said account directory is accessed by said payroll provider for retrieval, review and distribution of said processed payroll information to the payroll customer.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein said checks file, said reports file and said transactions file enable generation of printed reports.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said first, second and third means of data transmission are global networking system transmissions sent utilizing Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol to shield the customer from the third-party payroll processor.

16. (Presently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said system ~~is~~ implemented via a software application installed on a computer of said payroll provider.

17. (Original) A method of providing payroll processing services, said method comprising the steps of:

a. installing a software application on a computer of a non-payroll processing entity, said software application configurable to receive payroll processing request transmissions from a customer;

b. forwarding said payroll processing request transmissions to a common server accessible by a payroll processing entity via a global networking system;

c. processing said payroll processing request transmissions into useable payroll data to yield a processed payroll file;

d. transmitting said processed payroll file to said server;  
and

e. permitting said non-payroll processing provider to retrieve said processed payroll file and selectively distribute said processed payroll file to the customer from whom said payroll processing request transmissions originated.

18. (withdrawn) A software application for facilitating the provision of payroll processing services, said software application comprising:

means for receiving payroll processing request transmissions from a customer;

means for transmitting said payroll processing request transmissions from a non-payroll processing entity to a payroll processing entity to yield a processed payroll file;

means for retrieving said processed payroll file;

means for managing said processed payroll file; and

means for distributing said processed payroll file to the customer.

19. (withdrawn) The software application of Claim 18, wherein said receiving means comprises a modem configurable to operate in a listen mode and receive said payroll processing request transmissions in the form of facsimile data transmissions.

20. (withdrawn) The software application of Claim 18, wherein said transmitting means comprises a command button to access a main server through the global networking system for transmission of said payroll processing request transmissions to said payroll processing entity.

21. (withdrawn) The software application of Claim 18, wherein said retrieving means comprises a download function configured to download said processed payroll file from said server.

22. (withdrawn) The software application of Claim 18, wherein said managing means comprises a checks file data grid for managing check files retrieved from said processed payroll file.

23. (withdrawn) The software application of Claim 18, wherein said managing means comprises a reports file data grid for managing report files retrieved from said processed payroll file.

24. (withdrawn) The software application of Claim 18, wherein said distributing means comprises a checks select and print function for selectively printing at least a portion of said processed payroll file.

25. (withdrawn) The software application of Claim 18, wherein said distributing means comprises a reports select and print function for selectively printing at least a portion of said physical copies of said processed payroll file.